

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 30, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Milta Feliciano, Co-chair; Evette Brantley, Co-Chair;
Aidee Nieves, Jeanette Herron, Michelle Lyons (5:33 p.m.);
Eneida Martinez

OTHERS: Rena Gupta, Grants Department; Ginne-Ray Clay, Grants
Department Director; Doug Holcomb, GBT; Steven DeMichael,
GBT

CALL TO ORDER.

Council Member Feliciano called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m. A quorum was present.

152-15. Grant Submission: re NACCHO Medical Reserve Corps Challenge Award. (Project #17397).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM
152-15 GRANT SUBMISSION: RE NACCHO MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS
CHALLENGE AWARD. (Project #17397).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**121-15 Grant Submission re: 2017 Connecticut State Library Targeted Grant
Program. (Project #17213).**

Ms. Gupta and Ms. Clay gave a brief overview of this program. The previous funding from this grant allowed the Building Department to have 12,723 cards scanned. This will allow the City to have two seasonal workers for the summer to continue the scanning completed. Ms. Clay said that they hope to have the Zoning Department documents completed and the Building Department almost completely finished. The City has the licenses, the equipment and the software in place, so with the new funding, the City will be able to have scanning done in other departments also.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 121-
15 GRANT SUBMISSION RE: 2017 CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY
TARGETED GRANT PROGRAM. (Project #17213).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

122-15 Grant Submission re: State of Connecticut – Dial a Ride – Municipal Grant Program for Elderly & Disabled. (Project #17408)

Ms. Gupta came forward and gave an overview of the grant. The funds for group transportation are given to GBT to manage. GBT also handles funding for Fairfield, Trumbull and Monroe.

Council Member Feliciano said that her office uses the GBT service for the veterans and the drivers are often late. Frequently, the seniors are waiting for more than a half hour. The Veterans often have appointments at the V.A. Hospital or other events. Mr. Holcomb said that the service is struggling with the ADA service and he would speak to the Operations General Manager about this. He said that that service was separate from the service that the grant covers.

Council Member Brantley asked about Fairfield and Trumbull asked about the grant funding. Mr. DeMichael told Council Member Brantley that Fairfield Trumbull assigned their funding to GBT.

Council Member Feliciano asked how the Committee will know whether they have spent down the funding at the end of the year. Mr. DeMichael said that there are quarterly reports that are sent to Ms. Gupta. Historically, the State has allowed the excess funding to be rolled over to the following year, but there is no guarantee they will do this. GBT requests that the excess funding be allowed to roll over into the following year as a matter of course. Mr. Holcomb said that the Committee has more latitude to offer more services such as dialysis but the money would be used up quickly. He cautioned everyone that if the State cuts the funding, the extra funding they have would allow GBT some time to figure out what to do. Every year, during the State Budget process, the legislature always threatens to cut the line item. Mr. Holcomb added that none of the Bridgeport's allocation is used for the other towns.

Council Member Feliciano asked who they should contact at the Parks Department. She was told she should contact Luanne. She then repeated her question about who receives the quarterly reports. Ms. Gupta said that she receives those reports and sent them to the former Grants Director. Mr. Holcomb pointed out there were no matching funding, it was in-kind service.

Council Member Brantley asked if the V.A. Department provided transportation services for the veterans to go to the V.A. Council Member Feliciano said that the department does provide transportation but if the driver is out or on vacation, they used GBT as a backup.

Mr. Holcomb said that there were also a separate taxi voucher program for the veterans who were eligible for the ADA program. Council Member Martinez said that Council Member Brantley should call her to discuss the issues. Mr. Holcomb said that there has been an increase of almost 1,400 trips over the last year, but the funding has remained flat.

Council Member Martinez asked why the Council Members could not received statistics about the usage for the program and the services that were provided to the residents. She said that this was her second term on the grant and still had not received reports on the status of the grants, whether there was funding left over and if it was returned to the State.

Council Member Feliciano requested that the Grants department send a six month report to all the Council Members regarding how much money was spent or what services were provided.

Mr. DeMichael said that he had information and provided some of the figures. He said at the close of the third quarter, GBT had provided almost 6,000 one way trips. Typically at the end of the year, they have averaged over 10,000 trips for the last three years. Most of them were group trips to places like the V.A. Center, Stop N Shop or Seaside Place. He said that he expected that they would be carrying a balance at the end of the year, but cautioned everyone that they could not guarantee that they would be able to carry the balance forward.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 122-15 GRANT SUBMISSION RE: STATE OF CONNECTICUT – DIAL A RIDE – MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM FOR ELDERLY & DISABLED. (Project #17408).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

131-15 Grant Submission: re 2016 EPA Brownfield Cleanup – 173 Stratford Avenue. (Project #17407).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO WITHDRAW AGENDA ITEM 131-15 GRANT SUBMISSION: RE 2016 EPA BROWNFIELD CLEANUP – 173 STRATFORD AVENUE. (PROJECT #17407).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

132-15 Grant Submission: re Round 9 State Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) Brownfield Program for remediation at 1184-1218 Main Street & 179-207 Middle Street. (Project #17299).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO WITHDRAW AGENDA ITEM 132-15 GRANT SUBMISSION: RE ROUND 9 STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (DECD) BROWNFIELD PROGRAM FOR REMEDIATION AT 1184-1218 MAIN STREET & 179-207 MIDDLE STREET. (PROJECT #17299).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

133-15 Grant Submission: re Round 9 State Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) Brownfield Program for assessment at 68 St. Stephens Road. (Project #17277).

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO WITHDRAW AGENDA ITEM 133-15 GRANT SUBMISSION: RE ROUND 9 STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (DECD) BROWNFIELD PROGRAM FOR ASSESSMENT AT 68 ST. STEPHENS ROAD. (PROJECT #17277).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

142-15 Grant Submission: re 2016 DOJ Second Chance Technology Based Career Training Program for incarcerated Adults & Juveniles. (Project #17245).

Council Member Brantley asked for clarification on whether this was targeted for Bridgeport youth in Manson Detention Center and how the Bridgeport youth will know about this program. Ms. Gupta explained that they would have agreements with various workplaces for these positions. She explained that the program is three years and is part of the re-entry program. The program starts 6 to 8 months before the client is released.

Council Member Herron said that while these programs are needed, many of the programs are focused on the males. She pointed out that the Council needs to start working on providing programs for females. Ms. Clay said that this particular grant was written in a way to focus on Manson inmates, who are male. Council Member Herron said it would be important to find grant funding for incarcerated females, also.

Council Member McBride-Lee pointed out that the facility was located in Cheshire and wondered how the youth would get there. However, knowing the youth will start before they are released makes sense.

Council Member Casco asked who would be helping the youth find a job. Ms. Gupta said that the technology was the focus. Ms. Clay said that when the groups start working

with the soon released inmates, they customize the program for that inmate. When Federal job training is done, there has to be a job at the end of it.

Council Member Casco asked how the Committee would know the Bridgeport residents would be receiving it. Ms. Clay explained that the administration has to know where the inmate was being released to and where the inmate has a permanent address. The facility administration start working with the inmates six months in advance. The training covers different aspect of computer design such as web page design or coding. The program requires that there be a job available at the end of the program. Discussion followed about the details.

Both Council Member McBride-Lee and Brantley said that they knew youth who had been involved in the program and it had worked well.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 142-15 GRANT SUBMISSION: RE 2016 DOJ SECOND CHANCE TECHNOLOGY BASED CAREER TRAINING PROGRAM FOR INCARCERATED ADULTS & JUVENILES. (Project #17245)**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

153-15 Grant Submission: re United States Department of Housing & Urban Development for Bridgeport Lead Free Families Grant. (Project #17372)

Ms. Gupta said that this was for doing lead remediation for low income families. There is a match from CDBG funding. The grant is for three years and \$25,000 will come from CDBG. The grant funding will be announced in July.

Council Member Martinez said that she had referred a number of seniors from her district while it sounds good, when the inspectors comes to talk to the owner, it comes off as putting the owner through the third degree. Ms. Gupta said that Bridgeport has the second highest level of lead poisoning. Council Member Martinez said that she objected to the way the inspectors treat the owners. She said that there needs to be more specific details in the application such as the ages of the children that have to be in residence. Council Member Feliciano said that the program is categorized by the amount of lead in the child's blood stream. With the high demand for the program services and the fact that there are no Spanish speakers in the department, there are many applications. Discussion followed about the details.

Council Member McBride-Lee asked if private home owners were eligible. Ms. Gupta said that if they met the guidelines, they would be eligible. The inspectors come from Audrey's department. Council Member Feliciano said that there were three inspectors who work for the City of Bridgeport.

Council Member Brantley said that the HUD funding was used for administration and contract work. The total grant amount is 2.9 million over the next three years. She reviewed the figures associated with the salaries, benefits and other and the salaries are approximately 1.3 million for a three year period. Office supplies are approximately \$14,000 for the same period. Travel and construction is about \$1.5 million. The current three year grant will expire on June 30th. This application will cover the upcoming three years. CDBG funding covers \$25,000 a year and is applied for annually.

Council Member Herron asked whether the doctors were required to notified the Health Department when they find a child with high lead levels. Ms. Gupta said that they were required by law to do so. She gave the details. Council Member Herron said that the cost of lead abatement was very high. Ms. Gupta agreed and pointed out that Bridgeport is an old city, so there is a very high percentage of lead in the older homes.

Council Member Feliciano asked who would handle the paperwork to make sure that the billing is issued in a timely manner. Ms. Clay said that there was a program manager who would be doing this. Discussion followed.

Council Member Feliciano said that all Bridgeport contractors were hired to do the work in order to keep the money in the community.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 153-15 GRANT SUBMISSION: RE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT FOR BRIDGEPORT LEAD FREE FAMILIES GRANT. (Project #17372).**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NIEVES SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Bridgeport
Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee
Special Meeting
June 30, 2016